

1-22-1863

## Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents from on board steamboat Louisiana near the Yazoo River, January 22, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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On Steamboat Louisiana  
near the mouth of Yazoo River  
Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

Dear Parents.

I forget the date of my last letter but I know it has been near a week since while <sup>were</sup> we several hundred miles north of this.

We have been coming down the river slowly since Sunday stopping often to wood & poking along for one cause or other.

Our Com. is on the Ohio Bell except the sick & some half dozen of us who remain <sup>not</sup> to take care of them. & I indeed a sad time we have of it



for there are so many sick & so sick & such poor means of taking care of them. but we do all we can for them under the circumstances.

This morning we buried two of our Com. Jacob Nonnemacher of Jerome Township died on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> he has been sinking gradually for some weeks with fever & diarrhea & is now gone.

Durken Spain died the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> he was taken down with the fever some 2 weeks ago & sunk rapidly <sup>for</sup> Boefere that he he had been healthier than for years before.

This evening Sumner Nash breathed his last this evening



& as he told me last evening "He is done with toil & trouble & can sleep sound now" He took me by the hand last night & said he could not get well & he wanted me to meet him in Heaven. He was taken some 2 weeks ago with the ~~fever~~ measles followed by the fever & finally some four days ago with the ~~fever~~ sore throat - I doctored it as the doctor said & as he said but it kept ~~pretty~~ getting worse & Oh how he wished for Glasco & to be there but all of no avail - ~ ~ ~

Several of our men are sick yet Wilson Blue & J. Cubber are pretty sick. Hill is not so well again. In fact very few of us are really well & several are very sick.



But I have written enough such  
sad news. but how can I help it  
it for it is a sad time here with us

But to change the subject  
we are going for Vicksburg now  
& mean to have it this time the  
River is high & the Gunboats will  
fetch it for us if nothing happens,  
at least I hope so & it is not a hope  
without foundation either

Send me some papers Commercial  
Weekly & daily for I can get no  
news from here here have but  
but indefinite news of the battle of  
Mumfreesboro yet. Send on the

papers I have got to directing  
to Father altogether for I get so little  
time to write & it seems more like writing  
to all at once. All write for I am sure none  
are forgotten. for I fancy I see you all  
in the sitting room Alpha & Lucy with you  
this cold winter night there (but it is  
warm as spring here). We had a cold spell  
about five or six days ago. Snow 5 inches  
deep & ice to slide on.

I am not half done writing yet but  
must quit for this time for I need  
a night's rest. Amid all the sickness  
I am still able for full rations  
& am thankful for the blessing too.  
Write often so I can get a letter  
every mail which is very irregular  
So all your affectionate son & brother  
Thomas



On Steamboat Louisiana near the mouth  
of the Yazoo River.

Jan. 22, 1863.

Dear Parents:

I forgot the date of my last letter but I know it has been near a week since while we were several hundred miles North of this. We have been coming down the river slowly since Sunday stopping often to wood and poking along for one cause or other. Our Com. is on the Ohio Bell except the sick and some half dozen of us who remained to take care of them, and <sup>in</sup> need a sad time we have of it for there are so many sick and so sick and such poor means of taking care of them but we do all we can for them under the circumstances. This morning, we buried 2 of our Com. Jacob Nonnemacher of Jerome Township who died on the evening of the 20th. He has been sinking gradually for some weeks with fever and diarrhea and is now gone. Duncan Spain died the morning of the 21st. He was taken down with the fever some 2 weeks ago and sunk rapidly. Just before that, he had been healthier than for years before.

This evening Sumner Nash breathed his last this evening and as he told me last evening "He is done with toil and trouble and can sleep sound now." He took me by the hand last night and said he could not get well and wanted me to meet him in Heaven. He was taken some 2 weeks ago with the measles followed by the fever and finally some days ago with the sore throat and I doctored it as the Doctor said and as he said but it kept getting worse and Oh, how he wished for Glasco to be there but all of no avail.

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But to change the subject, we are going for Vicksburg now and mean to have it this time. The River is high and the Gunboats will fetch it for us if nothing happens at least, I hope so and it is not a hope without foundation either.

Send me some papers, Commercial Weekly and Daily for I can get no news here. Have but indefinite news of the battle of Murfreesboro yet. Send on the papers. I have got directing to father altogether for I get so little time to write and it seems more like writing to all at once. All write for I am sure none are forgotten for I fancy I see you all in the sitting room - Orpha and <sup>Louise</sup> Lucy with you this cold winter night there (but it is warm as Spring here.) We had a cold spell about five or six days ago - snow 5 inches deep and ice to slide on.

I am not half done writing yet but must quit for this time for I need a night's rest. Amid all of the sickness I am still able for full rations and am thankful for the blessing too. Write often so I can get a letter every mail which is very irregular.

To all,

Your affectionate son & brother,

Thomas.